

**Setting up of a urea plant in iran**

\*22 DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to set up a Urea plant in Iran, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when the proposed plant is likely to start manufacturing various soil nutrients?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERILIZERS (SHRI ANANTHS KUMAR): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. In order to ensure long term availability of Urea in the country, the Governments is facilitating setting up of a Urea/Ammonia Joint Venture Project in Iran with capacity to produce 1.3 Million MT Urea for import to India. A consortium of Indian Companies viz. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCF), Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd (GSFC) and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) has appointed SBI Caps for advisory and due diligence services to identify a prospective Iranian JV partner in the project. The project is in consultation stage to identify an Iranian JV partner.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, the time is very short. So, I will try to coalesce my two supplementaries into one. The hon. Minister, in his reply, has not clarified the likely deadline for the completion of the project. And, that deadline cannot be fixed till a long-term gas supply contract is entered into. And, since no such gas supply contract has been entered into, can he identify the possible deadline and tell when the production will start? How will we bring it to India in view of the various sanctions that are already in force against Iran?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the issue is in preliminary negotiations because we all know that there are sanctions of the US, the UN and the European Union on Iran.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the Question Hour is over. The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

*The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.*

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